

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 30, 2013

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Solutions at Work Approves 10 Best Practices from Tool and Equipment Challenge

by Jim Dickson

While only eight innovations won statewide honors at last month's Innovations Showcase, half of the showcase participants have been approved as best practices. A recent meeting of district and Central Office reviewers evaluated all the non-winning showcase innovations and approved the following 10 tools and equipment modifications as best practices:

- Bullet Nose (Central District) uses a piece of scrap plastic pipe liner to install corrugated metal pipe.
- Edge Rut Box Roller (Northeast District) reduces the pieces of equipment needed for edge rut repairs.
- Swing Chute (Kansas City District) allows dump trucks to connect a tow plow without having to remove the spreader.
- Tow Plow Calibration (Southeast District) eliminates the need to purchase an additional control head to calibrate and control salt use on tow plows.
- Arrow Board Tilt Mechanism (St. Louis District) reduces back strain while setting cones on work zone lane tapers.
- Concrete Slab Puller (Central District) uses hydraulic pins to safely remove damaged concrete.
- Sign Post Setter (Northwest District) offers an alternative method for setting large signs when a bucket truck is not available.
- Tab Buster (Southwest District) allows a skid steer to remove temporary pavement markers quickly and safely.
- Tab Remover (Kansas City District) reduces back strains while removing temporary pavement markers by hand.
- Truck Bed Wedge (St. Louis District) provides a simple alternative for placing edge rut material without a spreader.



St. Louis District's Ken Birke and Keith Pehle show Assistant State Bridge Engineer Scott Stottlemeyer how the Arrow Board Tilt Mechanism can reduce back strains.



Central District employees use the Concrete Slab Puller attached to an excavator to safely and quickly move a slab to a dump truck bed.

The next step is to put these innovations to work wherever possible to help get work done better, faster and cheaper. District contacts are reviewing the new best practices to decide which ones they may need help fabricating. General Services staff will coordinate contracts and pricing for items needing external fabrication.

A similar process is underway for non-winning showcase innovations from the ProMo Challenge. The results from those evaluations will be announced in the coming weeks.

You can find photos, plans and videos of the newest best practices at <http://wwwwi/intranet/or/Solutions/solutionslist.htm> (link works for active employees only).

One Hundred Percent Goal Set for CPR and First Aid Training

by Beth Wright

In March, MoDOT's Senior Management Team discussed the benefits of employees knowing CPR and first aid. Recognizing that this fits right in with working safely every day, we agreed to set a goal of 100 percent employees trained in CPR and first aid. With the focus on getting everyone home safe, it is important that we are trained to recognize illness and address injuries that might occur. Currently, only 54% of our workforce has received this training.

CPR and first aid are currently required training for all safety-sensitive maintenance, traffic and bridge inspection employees. These folks are often some distance from medical care and in locations where there is little to no cell phone coverage. This training gives them the knowledge to help each other when needed.

**SAFETY
BEGINS
WITH ME**



CPR instructor Tamara Pitts walks through the CPR process step by step as Stan Hoelscher gets hands-on experience using the life saving technique.

Although many of us in office settings are close to medical care, in some cases minutes and seconds count and can make a difference whether a person has life threatening or lifelong issues. That is why it is also important for office staff to be trained.

We do recognize that not everyone may be able to complete the certification process, such as a physical condition that may exclude you from participating in some of the hands on requirements for certification. However, we do want everyone to attend the training, which is why we have set the 100 percent training goal.

Although you may not always be able to physically help, if you are trained you would know what to do in an emergency situation, such as the need for speed when finding medical assistance or recognizing a potential life threatening condition and encouraging a coworker to stop and seek medical care.

I personally have a passion for being informed of the signs and symptoms of illness. One of my coworkers in Kansas City told us she was feeling ill and then passed away on her way home. All of us thought if we knew more about how to recognize the symptoms, we might have been able to get medical care sooner and prevented the loss of a friend.

Classes are being offered around the state. We are counting on you to seek opportunities for this training so we can all learn how to watch out for ourselves and others, so we go home safe at the end of each day.

Have you seen the employee testimonial on how CPR training helped Chris Zurn save the life of his son? [Testimonial](#)

Making a Good First Impression

Many times, the first impression a customer gets of MoDOT is over the telephone or by email. Most of the time, that first contact is a customer service representative.

Twenty-two customer service representatives from across the state gathered in Jefferson City for an interactive, informative session highlighted by a visit from Director Dave Nichols and Customer Relations Director Mara Campbell.



Twenty-two customer service representatives from across the state came together to discuss new ideas and share information.

"While the overall theme of the session was a celebration, Dave and Mara both shared their appreciation for the work of all customer service representatives, thanking them personally for their efforts to bring our customer satisfaction rating higher than ever," said co-coordinator of the meeting, Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager for the Northeast District.

"With the implementation of the call bucket system last year, our reps electronically interact with each other more than ever, and most had not actually met face to face, so they were glad they had the opportunity to get to know each other," Ellison added.

Jeff Still, traffic systems supervisor for the Kansas City District, said the meeting was very informative, and he and his staff thoroughly enjoyed not only the interaction, but also the information provided. "It was great to talk with others about call reports, learn about the new contacts map, and share ideas in this type of setting," he said.

The reps also learned some security tips from Tim Taylor of the Risk Management Division, and Greg Clarkston, co-coordinator of the meeting, who shared a lot of information about the previous years' data on number of calls received in customer service.

"It was enlightening to see how many calls we received, especially during those winter and flood events, and I think it will be helpful in the future for planning," said Lisa Kellison, a Northwest District representative.

Clarkston also freshened up the customer service guide, and several portions were reviewed with the group.

Focus on the Road Winner Receives Car

by Kelly Martin

The Missouri Focus on the Road Campaign, sponsored in part by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, ended on May 16 during a live KRCG-TV evening telecast at Joe Machens Ford in Jefferson City.

Anna Barton of Tuscumbia, Mo., held the winning key that, much to her surprise, started the engine of her new Ford Focus donated by Joe Machens Ford. Barton was one of 13 final contestants.

During this campaign KRCG and ThinkFirst Missouri toured the state with assemblies at 10 high schools to spread the message to nearly 4,000 teens about safe driving habits. Nearly 10,000 Missourians took the pledge to drive distraction free.

Distracted driving includes anything that distracts you from driving, including texting, eating, talking, changing the radio and more. Distracted driving contributed to 16.4 percent of all traffic crashes in Missouri in 2012.

For more information visit savemolives.com, or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, #saveMOLives. Arrive Alive.



Even the glare from the ceiling lights couldn't hide the overwhelmed expression on Anna's face after her key started the engine of the new Ford Focus.

Remember When...

by Tammy Wallace



The original MoDOT employee newsletter, Highway News, ran this picture back in 1955. Glenn Major, district maintenance engineer at Kansas City, was shown using the new two-way radio system being tested for dispatching maintenance crews.

Radios were installed in 11 mobile units and the district office for a 90-day test period. Early reports were showing good reception up to a 30-mile radius from the district office and proving worthwhile in maintaining roads.

We all know that radios play a very important part in the daily activities of many employees. Today, the district dispatch console can reach across an entire district, a lot farther than the 1955 radius.

And just this week, a new console is being placed in St. Louis that will be able to communicate with any other MoDOT radio across the entire state. Now that's progress!



Fast Facts: Did You Know Missouri is Home to Major Rail Hubs?

by DeAnne Rickabaugh



Kansas City rail yard.

Missouri is home to two of the largest rail hubs in the United States. Kansas City ranks second, and St. Louis third behind behemoth Chicago.

Kansas City and St. Louis are regional freight centers for several reasons, the main being infrastructure. Both cities are located at rail interchange points, where multiple railroad lines meet to exchange responsibility for railcars where one line ends and another begins. The Union Pacific hands off to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern and 15 other railroads – and vice versa.

When the first rails were laid, these cities were already riverboat and barge freight centers. It was logical, then, that rail barons located hubs in major manufacturing and agricultural areas filled with people already skilled at freight movement.

Though the mix of freight moved by rail has changed in the past 150 years, it remains one of the most efficient means of moving goods to market.

What's Happening

Coming Soon

The Information Systems Division is gearing up to begin the move from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Outlook. In the next couple weeks, IS will begin installing the new software on all employees' computers behind the scenes. As this happens you will see a new icon on your



desktop called Microsoft Outlook 2012. Please do not use this icon until you have been trained and your division or department has completed the change to the new software.

Beginning in mid-June, IS will be the first group to use the software. This will allow them to support all employees through this process.

IS will begin moving other divisions and districts to the new software July 1, with an estimated completion date of mid-August. A detailed schedule of those moves is being prepared and will be shared with all employees soon, along with details on how we will work through the process.

Email is important for so many of us, and IS will do everything they can to make this transition as smooth as possible. The end result is that we will have a much better product than what we currently use.



Latest Jackpot

The Safety Jackpot hit St. Louis in a big way on May 20 when Sammy Hoke, senior maintenance worker, became the biggest winner to date collecting \$1,500 in the monthly bag grab drawing. See a video of Sammy's surprise attack - [Jackpot](#) (link works for active employees only).



Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt!

Congratulations to James Hayes of Central District and Charlotte Stewart of St. Louis District, the latest winners of the MoDOT Centennial Quiz. Both answered that the state highway commission, now known as the Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission, was established in 1921.

Take part in the current centennial quiz on the MoDOT Sharepoint site for your chance to win. Enter online here: [Quiz](#) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Fri., June 7 (link works for active employees only).

Question: Who was the President of the United States when the State Highway Department was established in Missouri?

- Woodrow Wilson
- Warren Harding

- Josiah "Jed" Bartlett
- James Madison

In Memorium

Egan Carter – active employee
Northwest District – April 25
Bobby Davis
former D10 – April 9
Thomas Hall
former D4 – April 11
Franklin Stansbury
former D1 – April 13

Louis Wieberg
former D5 – April 14
William Stephen
former D7 – April 15
Ralph Zoellner
former D10 – April 18
Lefel King
former D9 – April 22

Clifford Hoffman
former D9 – April 24
Willard Clevenger
former D8 – April 24
Wendell Allen
former D9 – April 29
John Brown
former D3 – May 5

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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May Health & Safety Tips *Watch Out Ticks are Back!*

It's that time again for ticks, which are most active during the months of April through September. Here's some information that can help you stay safe.

MoDOT employees will spend a lot of time outdoors whether it's working on the road, mowing, cutting brush or keeping our roadways clear by picking up trash. It's important that you protect yourself from tick bites.

Do not become a Tick's next snack

- Use insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin.
- Wear long clothing (sleeves, pants, socks) and treat clothing with products containing permethrin which should not be applied directly to skin. This can protect clothing through several wash cycles.
- Avoid tall grassy areas and wood piles. Make sure your grass line is not too close to a wooded area.
- Walk in the center of trails.
- Shower as soon as possible (preferably within 2 hours) after coming inside to wash away ticks that may be crawling on you.
- Conduct a full body tick check with a hand-held or full-length mirror.
- Examine clothing, ticks can travel on clothing and attach later.
- If you find a tick attached to you, remove it quickly and carefully.
- With fine-tipped tweezers, pinch the tick near the mouth and close to the surface of the skin and pull the tick upward in a slow, continuous motion. Do not twist or jerk because that could leave parts of the mouth embedded in the skin.
- After removal, clean thoroughly with rubbing alcohol, iodine scrub or soap and water.
- Do not use nail polish, petroleum jelly or heat as a way of getting the tick to detach.



The lone star tick, one of the most common ticks found in Missouri.

Ticks can carry bacteria, such as Lyme disease or Anaplasmosis, or parasites, such as Babesiosis. If bitten, it takes 24-36 hours for bacteria to spread to the blood.

One of the most recognizable illnesses associated with a tick bite is Lyme disease, a bacterial infection beginning with flu-like symptoms and causing a bull's-eye rash at the site of the bite. If not treated in time, it can affect the heart and nervous system.

Be Careful Out There!

More Summer Safety - *Lightning*

According to the National Weather Service, two of the biggest weather hazards that affect the United States typically occur during the summer months - lightning and excessive heat.

Lightning can strike as much as 10 miles away from the rain area of a thunderstorm. That's about the distance that you are able to hear the thunder from the storm.

While virtually all people take some protective actions during the most dangerous part of thunderstorms, many leave themselves vulnerable to being struck by lightning as thunderstorms approach, depart, or are nearby. Although some victims are struck directly by the lightning discharge, many victims are struck as the current moves in and along the ground.

Lightning Safety:

Remember, there is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm. Your first and only truly safe choice is to get to a safe building or vehicle. If you absolutely can't get to safety, here are some suggestions.

- Listen to the weather forecast. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, stay inside.
- Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.
- Stay away from water, wet items (such as ropes) and metal objects (such as fences and poles). Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity. Remember, lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the rain area. Plus the current from a lightning flash can easily travel for long distance

If you are indoors:

- Stay there! The best protection from lightning is a house or other substantial building. However, stay away from windows, doors, and metal pipes.
- Do not use electric appliances during the storm. Turn off sensitive equipment such as televisions, DVD's and computers.
- Telephone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the United States. Do not make a call unless it is an emergency.



What's Happening at Central Office

Team Building

The bidding and contract services section of the Central Office Design Division recently had a team building day in the field, which included a tour of the Mississippi River Bridge and approach projects. The team also spent time discussing ideas for process improvements in their workflow.

Top Photo - Front row (left to right): Natalie Roark, Patrick Hake, Sheila Schulte, Danica Stovall-Taylor, Lisa Mueller.
Back Row (left to right): Michael Frank, Steve Johnson, Ralph Rankin, Jeff Campbell, Patrick Haslag.

Bottom Photo (left to right): Ralph Rankin, Michael Frank, Patrick Hake, Steve Johnson, Patrick Haslag, Danica Stovall-Taylor, Lisa Mueller, Jeff Campbell, and tour leader Randy Hitt, deputy project director.



Training Available

More CPR and First Aid training classes are being offered to Central Office employees. Classes are filling up fast, so please sign up early. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing as some skills are practiced on the floor. Additional classes will be scheduled over the coming weeks.

Location: HRED, Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Thu., July 11 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tue., July 16 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Thu., July 25 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

To register, contact Danielle Thomas - Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-7860.

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Local Teen Wins Car

Driving safely paid off in many ways for 18-year old Zachary McClintick when he won a free car as part of the I'm A Safe Driver program.

The Saint Joseph Police Department, Car City, K-Jo 105.5, and the City of Saint Joseph are working together with the Missouri Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety again this year to encourage young drivers to be safe and Arrive Alive.

When asked about advice to his peers about driving safely, the recent high school graduate said, "Watch out for other drivers and always wear your seat belt." The I'm a Safe Driver program reaches out to high schools in the St. Joseph metropolitan area to encourage them to drive responsibly.

At the beginning of the school year students pledged to drive safely. Once a month throughout the school year, registrations cards were drawn for free prizes such as gift cards, gas cards and fast food coupons.

Only registered students who were present at the drawing May 18 and have a clean driving record could win. Sixty-seven students showed up in hopes of winning the free car or other prizes. The Fraternal Order of Police provided hot dogs and drinks with the support of Ray's Green Hills, 7Up and Barrel of Fun Chips.

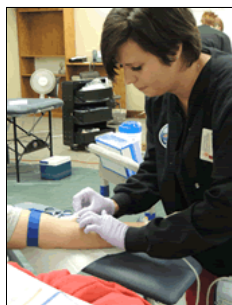
This is the sixth year for this successful program. Officer Brendan McGinnis with the St. Joseph Police Department is in charge of the program and says the program will expand next year to include the Mid-Buchanan and Dekalb High Schools with the help of the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department.

"We want to help keep as many young drivers safe as we can," McGinnis said. "The more youth we get involved, potentially the fewer crashes, injuries and possible fatalities we could be facing for our young drivers. We want every driver to remember to Buckle Up and Arrive Alive."



Zachary McClintick, center, won a 1997 Dodge Stratus ES as part of the I'm A Safe Driver program. McClintick is pictured with St. Joseph Police Officer Brendan McGinnis and Car City's Roger Auxier.

Giving Only Hurt A Little, But Helped A Lot



A nurse with the Community Blood Center begins the donation process for Sr Highway Designer Mary

Northwest District employees were seeing red recently, but that red means the gift of life to many people. The Community Blood Center came to the district office last week and set up several donation stations.

A special call went out the morning of the drive, as the Community Blood Center said their supplies were extremely low. Employees had to go through a screening process to determine if they were eligible to donate.

Several tried to donate, but were turned away due to a variety of factors, such as low iron content. In total, 18 Northwest District employees were able to donate and the center collected 18 units of much needed blood to replenish the local supply.

Thank you to all who donated! If you missed this drive, the Highway Patrol will be holding a drive in our Conference Center later this summer and MoDOT will hold another drive this fall.

Longoria with a quick needle stick.



Nearly all of the donation beds were filled as many employees gave generously. Front: Sr Highway Designer Scott Nett
Back: Sr Traffic Specialist Jimmy Becerra, Sr Highway Designer Mary Longoria, Asst District Construction and Materials Engineer Austin Hibler

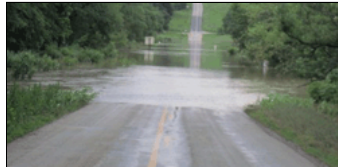


Those who donated, including Intermediate Maintenance Worker Roy Roush from Maryville Maintenance, received snacks, juice and educational information after their donation.

Around the District



Seven district office employees (and Barrel Betty and Baby Bob) participated in Bike To Work Day on May 13, 2013. Through a grant from MoDOT's Blueprint for Safety program, each participant received a t-shirt from the Greater St. Joseph MPO, who sponsored the contest. The business with the most employees biking to work won a prize. This year's winning business was Heartland Health, with MoDOT in fourth, by a narrow margin.



Maintenance personnel have been busy this week with flooding all across the district and more rain is forecast for the next couple of days. Maintenance Supervisor Mike Gardner sent in this photo of Route WW under water east of Marceline. Note the height of the water as compared to the sign near the back left of the picture!



Customer Relations Manager Melissa Black and Customer Relations Specialist Marcia Johnson assisted with the seatbelt check held during a shift change at Heartland.



Customer Relations Specialist Marcia Johnson and Heartland ER Trauma Nurse Ray Staggs checked drivers arriving and leaving the Heartland Health parking lot in St. Joseph.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Partnership for Improvements

The City of Macon and MoDOT held a groundbreaking ceremony Thu., May 23 in the student section of the Macon High School parking lot to signify the start of a project to improve Maffrey Street.

The project involves the reconstruction of approximately five blocks of Maffrey Street with a new surface, as well as the addition of new storm sewers and concrete curb and gutter. The city street is used by a lot of local drivers because it is near the school and a head start.

The project is being funded by the City of Macon and Federal Highway Administration funds administered by MoDOT. The contract was awarded to Strait-Line Construction from Lake Ozark, Mo.



A lot of muscle was used to crack up the pavement to signify the beginning of street improvement in Macon. Pictured from left to right are Aaron McVicker from SKW Consultants, the three county commissioners Drew Belt, Jon Dwiggins and Alan Wyatt, Macon Mayor Dale Bagley, Representative Tim Remole, City Administrator Allan Muncy, Sarah Barfield-Graff from U.S. Senator Roy Blunt's office, and Brian Haefner, MoDOT area engineer.

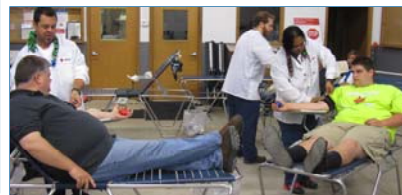
Around the District..



Randy Grote from Troy maintenance helped with the Missouri Pesticide Collection Day held at Troy maintenance building this month. More than two dozen people stopped by the facility to drop off pesticides.



Despite the rainy weather, crews have been busy replacing pipes like this one on Route D in Audrain County.



Bill Noyes of general services (above left), is very close to reaching a milestone of donating four gallons of blood, and he is now getting his son Kevin (above right), involved. This is the second time his son has donated.



Remember the cute "Thank you, Mr. MoDOT" picture? Young Chasin, the little boy in the picture, got an up close look at one of those big trucks at the Mexico maintenance building.

For more info

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6th Annual Big Truck Night a Success

by Keri Lewis

photos by Michele Compton



Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline awaits another ball as visitors and team members line up to "Dunk 'EM! for Dollars!" All proceeds from the dunk tank were donated to the Clifton J. Scott Memorial Highway signs fund.

The KC District held its 6th Annual Big Truck Night on May 21. This community-wide, free event invites families to visit the KC District Office and tour big trucks while learning about safety and health from many community partners. More than 750 people joined the fun.

This year's event held additional meaning as we paid tribute to fallen Mo DOT worker and friend Clifton J. Scott. Employees are raising money for "Clifton J. Scott Memorial Highway" signs fund, with a goal of \$2,400. In addition to cash donations, we hosted two fundraiser's.

A large splash could be heard, followed by laughter and cheers with the addition of a dunk tank at this year's event. Employees, adults and kids of all ages were invited to "dunk 'em for dollars" and dunk a member of management team. Tasty hot dogs, chips and sodas were sold to bolster the sign fund. A total of \$1,413 was raised through these two fundraising efforts to support costs to erect and maintain the memorial signs along I-70 in Independence.

MoDOT big trucks, a fire truck, ambulance, D.A.R.E. car, SWAT Team tank, the KSHB TV 41 news chopper and many more vehicles were scattered across the parking lot for everyone to tour. The Missouri Mavericks team mascot "Mac" visited, and the Lee's Summit Police Department's K-9 unit and bomb squad team did special demonstrations. Live music floated through the air with the musical talents of Senior Maintenance Worker RJ Walker and Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims.

In addition to the food, trucks and music, those who stopped by were also treated to many informational booths. On the Move ambassadors gathered important feedback for MoDOT's long range plan, Gail's Harley Davidson shared a motorcycle simulator emphasizing the importance of motorcycle safety, the traffic department discussed distracted driving and shared Arrive Alive materials, and the design department gave quick lessons on driving a roundabout using tricycles. Other partners included Truman Medical Center, Parent's as Teachers, Lee's Summit Cares, Adopt-A-Highway, Kids2Leaders, and KC Scout.

This event draws hundreds of visitors each year to learn about MoDOT, health and safety. Thanks to the efforts of our team members, this event is a success and a great opportunity to showcase our amazing work while giving back to the communities we serve.



**For more info**

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Thanks for All You Do!

A Message from Central District Engineer David Silvester

It's State Employee Recognition Week, a time set aside to honor the dedication and commitment of state employees.

For me, it's a time to reflect on how we at the Central District are operating as a team. In all honesty, I couldn't be prouder to lead the Central District team. I am constantly amazed at the quantity and quality of work you deliver despite the fact that we've become a smaller state agency.

I am also pleased with the outstanding customer service you provide and am able to rest easy knowing you are prepared to react quickly and safely to the variety of situations - both emergency and routine - we find ourselves facing on a daily basis.



Ginger Hird, Senior Maintenance Worker at the Versailles maintenance facility, is just one member of the Central District team.

It often seems all we hear are the negative comments we receive from the public. It's hard not to let those anger and bother us, but we have to remember that sometimes even negative feedback can help us do our jobs better. Keep in mind, too, that we receive quite a few compliments on the work we perform. This was evident during this season's snow fights when we all pulled together to ensure safe travels for our customers.

No two days are alike, and I encourage you to tackle each day with a positive attitude and a fresh outlook. There are always going to be challenges and frustrations, but working together we can address anything that comes our way, especially if we stay focused on our mission and live our values:

- Be Safe,
 - Be Accountable,
 - Be Respectful,
 - Be Inclusive,
 - Be Bold,
 - Be Better, and
 - Be One Team
- So we can be a great organization

On behalf of the entire district leadership, I want to THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication. I'm proud of the Central District team and appreciate all you do to serve our customers – the citizens of Missouri. Keep up the great work!

Girders Set for Route Z Project

Central District construction staff teamed up with Don Schnieders Excavating to ensure smooth travels on Interstate 70 on May 20 when the girders for the new Route Z overpass near Columbia were set.

Both the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-70 were down to one lane of traffic from 10 p.m. on Mon., May 20 to 5 a.m. on Tues., May 21. For most of that time, single-lane traffic was diverted over the exit ramps and back onto the interstate

"Despite some storms that blew in earlier in the evening, everything went very smoothly," said Kirsten Munck, assistant to the resident engineer in the Columbia Project Office.

After the girders were put in place, construction crews went to work placing the bridge deck panels.

The work is part of a project to improve Route Z in Boone County, which consists of replacing the existing Route Z bridge over Interstate 70, adding shoulders and resurfacing Route Z from I-70 to St. Charles Road, and building a roundabout at the intersection of Route Z and St. Charles Road.

The new Route Z interchange and improvements along the corridor are scheduled to be completed in early August.



Construction crews work to place the deck panels on the new Route Z overpass near Columbia.

Surprise Seat Belt Checks Conducted as Part of Click It or Ticket Campaign

As part of the statewide Click It or Ticket Campaign to crack down on unbelted drivers through June 2, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's Central Region conducted surprise seat belt checks at four area high schools last week.

The seat belt checks were held at Jefferson City High School, Fulton High School and Columbia Hickman and Rock Bridge high schools. Coalition members rewarded teens who were buckled with Smarties candies and presented those who were not wearing seat belts with Dum Dum suckers.

"The seatbelt checks help promote the importance of buckling up with teens, who consistently have one of the lowest rates of seat belt use in Missouri," said Dianna Johnson, event coordinator for the coalition's central region. "The effort also served as a reminder that enforcement will be heightened during the Click It or Ticket campaign."



Columbia Police Officer Scott Decker checks to see if these Rock Bridge students are buckled up. Officer Decker helped with the surprise seat belt check conducted May 21 at the high school as part of the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign to crack down on unbelted drivers.

The surprise seat belt checks focused on schools in three of the Central District's four emphasis counties – Boone, Cole and Callaway – because those areas have lower rates of seat belt use. The fourth emphasis county is Phelps.

District Happenings

MoDOT and its messages were well represented when St. Francis Xavier Church in Taos celebrated its 175th anniversary with a May 18 parade and other events. Traffic Supervisor Kevin Eggenmeyer drove the crash car to remind parade observers to buckle up, while his wife, Ruth, who works for Central Office Information Systems, passed out Lifesavers candy, along with Edith Walton, executive assistant to Central District Engineer David Silvester. The Eggenmeyer's daughter, Ashley, wowed the crowd as Buckle Bear, and the On the Move van brought up the rear!



Crews went to work quickly on May 21 to fix a sign truss located over the Interstate 70 and Route 63 connector in Columbia. The sign truss was apparently damaged by an oversized load hitting it. Motorists were able to make all traffic movements during the work so traffic continued to flow fairly smoothly.



Volunteers with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's Central Region distributed sun screen and chap stick with the Arrive Alive message at the Missouri State Track Meet held at Lincoln University's football stadium in Jefferson City. Pictured staffing the Arrive Alive booth on May 17 are Central Office Senior Traffic Technician Dawn Haslag and Think First staff members Chad Burton and Penny Lorenz.

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Comments & Suggestions

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State Law Enforcement Buckling Down on Those Not Buckling Up

Click It or Ticket Day and Night

by Jack Wang
photo by Andrew Gates

Motorists in Missouri, and across the nation will notice more police on interstates and highways this summer. Law enforcement reminds everyone to buckle up.

"As summer heats up, so does safety belt enforcement, said Leanna Depue of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "Both Missouri and Illinois law enforcement officers are cracking down on unbelted drivers for an aggressive national Click It or Ticket campaign."

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety along with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Illinois State Police, the city of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, and many other law enforcement partners from our local municipalities gathered as partners for Click It or Ticket. The nationwide Click It or Ticket campaign started May 20 and ends on June 2. Law enforcement from Missouri and Illinois joined with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, MoDOT and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety in a news conference to announce the crackdown.

"We are strongly urging the motoring public to make sure every occupant in every vehicle operating in the state of Missouri is properly secured," said Sgt. Al Nothum of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "Whether it is an appropriate adjustment to fasten seat belts, a child restraint system, or a booster seat. The patrol, along with law enforcement agencies throughout the state are dedicated and committed to reducing traffic fatalities across Missouri's thousands of roadways."

In 2012, 394 people in Missouri killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a safety belt. In 2012, 955 people in Illinois were killed and were not wearing a seat belt.

"Drive responsibility," said Trooper Calvin Dye Jr. of the Illinois State Police. "During the Memorial Day holiday weekend, many motorists will be driving including teens. We want everyone to arrive at their destination safely. As part of our Memorial Day weekend and summer months enforcement, Illinois State Police and our law enforcement partners will saturate pre-designated areas. So our message is very clear, don't drink and drive, don't text and drive and please buckle up."

"Buckle up and arrive alive," said Colonel Sam Dotson, Chief of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. "Enforcing traffic laws are just part of what we do however, we have an obligation to educate the public about the importance of safe and responsible driving. Through the Click It or Ticket enforcement efforts, our officers are committed to enforcing seat belt usage among drivers. Seat belts save lives. When you choose to drive without your seat belt, you're risking your life. Seat belts are the single most effective way to protect yourself in a crash. Buckle yourself, buckle your children and before leaving for your destination, ensure that all the passengers in your vehicle are buckled."

Even with all the advancements in automobile safety and education on the importance of seat belt use, Missouri's seat belt use still remains relatively unchanged at 79 percent, and consistently below the national average of 86 percent.

For more information about Click It or Ticket, visit www.saveMOLives.com, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives. ARRIVE ALIVE.



MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue, along with Missouri and Illinois law enforcement leaders, addressed the media and motorists at a kickoff news conference May 20 to discuss the increased enforcement efforts for safety belt use.

Route 364 Page Phase 3 Breaks Ground

Construction Begins for Final Section of Page Extension

by Linda Wilson Horn

MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger, St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann, and many federal, state and local elected officials recently broke ground for the final section of the Route 364 Page Avenue Extension. The ceremony took place at the Interstate 64 and Route N interchange in Lake Saint Louis. The site marks the location where the final nine miles of Route 364 will end at I-64.

The new \$118 million four-lane divided highway will cross through five municipalities in St. Charles County and will include new interchanges at Route 94, Route K, Bryan Road, Henke Road and additional ramps at I-64.

The project received \$57 million in funding from St. Charles County and the local municipalities including specific funds from the cities of O'Fallon and Dardenne Prairie. The design-build project was awarded to Page Constructors, a joint venture with Fred Weber Inc, Millstone Bangert Inc, and Kolb Grading, with Parsons Transportation serving as the lead designer. Construction work began this month. The new highway will open in three sections in the fall of 2014 with final completion by Thanksgiving 2014.

The first two areas for construction work will be at Gutermuth Road in Cottleville and at Bryan Road in O'Fallon/Dardenne Prairie. A short section of Gutermuth Road will close Wed., May 29 and remain closed until August 29. Motorists will be able to use Old Gutermuth as a detour around the construction site. Crews will be working at Bryan Road but construction impacts will be minimal. Within the next month or so, residents should see construction activity along all nine miles of the project.

Maps of the new highway design and the interchanges at Route 94, Route K, Bryan Road, Henke Road and I-64 are available online. For more information on the Route 364 project, go to www.modot.org/Route364.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Member Grace Nichols (center) along with numerous federal, state and local elected officials broke ground for the final phase of the Route 364 Page Avenue Extension on May 22, 2013. The final nine mile project is a Design-Build contract that will build a four-lane divided highway with several new interchanges through the middle of St. Charles County. When complete in Fall 2014, the final piece of road will provide a highway from Interstate 64 in western St Charles County to I-270 in St. Louis County.



The MoDOT team working on the Route 364 Page Phase 3 Design-Build project celebrated the official project groundbreaking. Pictured from left are: Linda Wilson Horn, Chris Cruse, Tony Gambaro, Stacey Smith, Charlotte Stewart, Dale Henderson, Dave Simmons, Mike Castro, Eric Kopinski, Jason Balestreri, FHWA Felix Gonzalez, Angela Fuerst and Ed Hassinger.

Barrel Bob Special Appearance at Annie Malone Parade



Barrel Bob made a special appearance at the Annie Malone Parade held late May in downtown St. Louis. Pictured is Barrel Bob being escorted by MoDOT's On the Move van on Market Street in front of Union Station. MoDOT is hitting the road to continue the On the Move conversation with mobile tours throughout the state. Over the summer, keep a look out for the bright orange van in St. Louis to continue this important conversation about Missouri's transportation future.

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Comments & Suggestions

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MOWING IN CEDAR COUNTY: Senior Maintenance Worker Kris Marshall mows along Route 97 near Jerico Springs, with Maintenance Worker Josh Conard following in the protection truck. Both work for El Dorado Springs Maintenance. [CLICK ON PHOTO TO SEE VIDEO.](#) (Photo/Video by Bob Edwards)



BRIDGE REPAIRS: A crew making deck repairs on the Dade County Route H bridge over Stockton Lake includes from left, Greenfield Senior Maintenance Worker David Weiser, Joplin Maintenance Worker Mark Higgs operating a skid loader and Greenfield Senior Maintenance Worker Steve Thorpe. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



ACTING QUICKLY: Receiving Certificates of Appreciation for their recent life-saving efforts are, from left, Senior Equipment Technician Jeff Rogers, Senior Survey Technician Michael Johnson, Senior General Services Technician Eric Hambey, Senior Equipment Technician Larry Jeffreys and Equipment Technician Supervisor Gary Shisler. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: District Engineer Becky Baltz, second from right, joins in a May 22 ribbon cutting to celebrate the rehabilitation of the Route 39 bridge over Table Rock Lake at Shell Knob. The project, which required one-lane traffic on the bridge for several months, was completed before the Memorial Day holiday as promised. Others include, from left, State Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, State Sen. David Sater, Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce member Gay Taylor-Moss and Chamber Director Karen Elsey. (Photo by Angela Eden)

SW District Pickers Exceed Last Year's Trash Bag Total

by Angela Eden

The 22,014 bags of trash picked up in April by Southwest District maintenance crews, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers and Roadside prison work-release inmates amounted to an 19 percent increase over the previous April.

That's 3,482 more bags. That's quite a 2013 "No MOre Trash Bash!"

"Fantastic work!" State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright said in an email to the Southwest District Management Team. "You made a difference, and I know many of our customers delight in the result of your efforts."

District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton attributed the higher numbers in the annual anti-litter campaign to a commitment by the shops to clean up the roadsides and a little friendly competition for some free food.

- Maintenance crews picked up 2,063 bags more than in April 2012.

Mount Vernon, Cole Camp and Preston led all shops, filling more than 38 bags of trash per crew member. Their work earned the three shops a barbecue lunch provided by the district maintenance management team.

The 30-bag-per-person average was reached or exceeded by crews in five other maintenance buildings.

- Adopt-A-Highway groups in the Southwest District filled 420 more bags of trash than the previous April.
- Inmates filled 999 more bags, with MoDOT's roadside supervisors making a concerted effort to reach all parts of the district, including the Joplin and Springfield metro areas.

"Outstanding job," Middleton said of the combined effort.

Five SW District Workers Move Quickly Trying to Save Man's Life

by Bob Edwards

For their quick actions to try to save the life of a truck driver found lying unconscious on the pavement near the district garage, five Southwest District employees earned a MoDOT Certificate of Appreciation.

The awards were presented at a management team meeting Tuesday by District Engineer Becky Baltz to:

- Michael Johnson -- Senior Survey Technician
- Jeff Rogers -- Senior Equipment Technician
- Larry Jeffreys -- Senior Equipment Technician
- Eric Hambey -- Senior General Services Technician
- Gary Shisler -- Equipment Technician Supervisor

"You did all the right things," Baltz said.

The incident occurred Wednesday morning, May 15. Johnson was pulling away from the fuel pumps after filling his truck. He noticed a man lying face down on the ground near a low-boy trailer where he had been securing a loader purchased at auction.

Johnson stepped out of the truck and knelt down: "I said, 'Can you hear me?' And he didn't respond."

Johnson went into the garage to get help from co-workers. They reacted immediately. Rogers phoned 911 and handed an automated external defibrillator to Hambey who ran it outside. Shisler called the trucking company. Jeffreys and Johnson tried to rouse the stricken man as they turned him over.

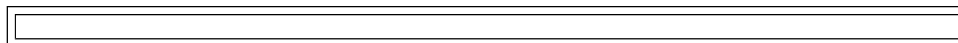
Rogers continued relaying information to 911 while the others were preparing to use the AED. That's when Springfield Fire Department firefighters/emergency medical technicians arrived and took over. The man, who reportedly had a history of heart problems, was showing no sign of life and did not survive.

"We were all concerned and trying to remember what we needed to do," Shisler said. "Nobody panicked."

District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry said the five employees did a good job of following the training they had in first aid, CPR and AED.

"While they all did something different, they all responded," McLarry said.

Senior Risk Management Technician Jodie Payne, one of the district's 14 trainers in life-saving techniques, said, "They did everything they could to save him."



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Train Derailment Causes Overpass Collapse



A train derailment on May 25 caused the Route M overpass in Scott County to collapse. The bridge replacement is expected to cost \$3 million.

An early morning train derailment on Sat., May 25 took down the Route M overpass in Scott County.

The collapse occurred after two trains collided at a rail intersection. Derailed rail cars struck columns supporting the overpass, causing the collapse. In addition, fuel leaked from the train engines, causing a fire to break out.

Following the incident, the National Transportation Safety Board began their on-site investigation. Clean-up of the aftermath was underway throughout Memorial Day weekend, with the Union Pacific train track now rebuilt and open.

MoDOT has retained Burns & McDonnell to complete the design of the new overpass. The bid letting is tentatively scheduled for June 28. Completion is anticipated in September 2013. The replacement is expected to cost approximately \$3 million.

On the Move: From Co-ops to Bargain-Hunters

In addition to shopping during this year's 100-Mile Yard Sale, bargain-hunters got a chance to share their ideas for the future of Missouri's transportation system. The Southeast District's On the Move ambassadors spoke with hundreds of Missourians May 23 and 24.

The yard sale stretches along Route 25 from Cape Girardeau County to Dunklin County.

"This provided a great opportunity for us to gather input and mingle with Missourians," said SE District Customer Relations Manager Nicole Thieret. "We have targeted a variety of groups and business owners through On the Move, but this presented us with a completely new venue."

Thieret added that besides the 100-Mile Yard Sale, an electric co-op meeting in Sikeston, public hearing to discuss construction of an interchange south of Scott City and several tours of local businesses allowed On the Move ambassadors to reach nearly 500 Missourians the week of May 20.

"Whether it is a casual conversation about transportation needs or a presentation to a group, we are looking for every possible avenue available to collect input," she said.

The On the Move mobile tour will be underway through July 4.

"If there is an upcoming event in your community or a group that you believe would like to discuss Missouri's transportation system, please contact me to discuss the details," said Thieret.

She may be contacted via email at nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov or 573.472.6632. Please also encourage interested individuals to visit the On the Move website at www.missourionthemove.org to submit their thoughts about Missouri's transportation needs.



SE District On the Move ambassadors will make their way across the 25-county region as part of the On the Move mobile tour.

Thanks to Arnold, Byes of Poplar Bluff Maintenance

I am writing this letter to you regarding the conduct of two district employees on the morning of Tuesday, May 7. I am sure your office as well as ours receives letters of a negative nature most of the time, but this is a letter I have the pleasure to write. On Tuesday morning, I was traveling to Jefferson City to pick up some surplus property and was in my vehicle pulling a trailer. While on Highway 67 northbound near Poplar Bluff maintenance shed, I experienced an incident and the trailer I was pulling came loose from my vehicle and almost caused a catastrophic event. Then two MoDOT employees, Mike Arnold and Lee Byes, stopped when they saw I was in distress and offered welcomed assistance. It was with their dedication and professionalism to provide service to a person in need on the highway, the bad situation was corrected and I was able to continue on my journey. It was truly refreshing to experience the caring attitude that these men displayed, and they represented the Missouri Department of Transportation in an exemplary manner. I certainly did not want this Good Samaritan deed to go unannounced and give the two employees due recognition. Thank you.

Tommy Horton
Chief Deputy-Stoddard County Sheriff's Department

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